recommended the creation of a legal framework for successfully implementing a national identity system. The question of issue of Identity Cards under the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 is under consideration.

Mandatory registration of marriage

2573. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make registration of all marriages mandatory to protect women of socially and economically weaker sections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how women facing harassment from in-laws would be able to defend in the absence of legal documents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The para 6.3 of National Policy for the Empowerment of Women 2001 states that registration of marriages would be made compulsory. However, the legislation position is as under:

Registration of marriages solemnized or contracted under the India Christian Marriage Act, 1872, the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954 is compulsory. Section 8 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 provides that if the State Government is of opinion that it is necessary or expedient so to do, it may provide that the entering of the particulars of Hindu marriages in the Hindu marriage register shall be compulsory in the State or in any part thereof, whether in all cases or in such cases as may be specified. Certain State Governments, namely, of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka have State Acts providing for compulsory registration of marriages in those States. Registration of marriages solemnized otherwise than under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 is permissible under Section 16 of the said Act if such marriages fulfil certain conditions as laid down under chapter III of that Act. The question of making registration of Hindu marriages compulsory

could also be considered by the State Governments as per the local situations prevailing in those States.

Modernisation of CRPF

2574. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Reserve Police Force is going to be modernised in pursuance of the recommendations of the Group of Ministers constituted after Kargil war;

(b) if so, the modern weaponry that the force is going to be required;

(c) the number of battalions to be increased; and

(d) the total expenditure involved for this entire modernisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the Modernisation Plan, CRPF have identified state-of-the-art modern weaponry best suited for performing internal security duties.

(c) It has been planned to raise additional 64 Battalions (including 7 Group Centres) and 121 Companies of CRPF over a period of 5 years.

(d) The expenditure involved for (b) and (c) above is as under:—

(i) Modern weaponry	—	Rs. 314.10 crore
(ii) Additional raising	—	Rs. 2351.55 crore